



TOP LAWYERS HALL OF FAME

Need a good attorney? These lawyers are consistently some of the very best in Washington.

WASHINGTON HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF lawyers per capita of any city in the United States—more than twice that of New York City. In a place where laws get made, we've got a lot of people to interpret and enforce them.

While it's not hard to find a lawyer, choosing a good one is usually the goal—whether you're going through a divorce, drawing up a will, being sued by a neighbor who slipped on your front porch, or subpoenaed to testify before Congress.

Washingtonian began publishing a Top Lawyers list in 1992. Thirty years ago, the roster was predominantly white and male—as was the profession. As the city and the industry changed, the awardees, thankfully, reflected more of the region's diversity.

What also becomes apparent when you glance at the more recent lists: Some names have made it year after year. Keep in mind that Top Lawyers is put together through peer voting—we send surveys to local attorneys and ask them to tell us whom they would turn to if they needed legal help and advice.

Which means that the ones who appear year after year are, in essence, the best of the best among their peers. We decided to honor them.

The professionals here—all still practicing—have been on a Top Lawyers list at least ten of the past 15 years. (We've identified them with their current firms, though they may have practiced elsewhere previously.) Consider this a sort of “lifetime achievement” award for area attorneys.

HOW WE PICKED THE BEST OF THE BEST

The names on this “Lifetime Achievement” honor roll were pulled from previous Top Lawyers lists that *Washingtonian* has published—everyone cited here has been a Top Lawyer for ten of the past 15 years.

But how, you may wonder, does an attorney get on the list to begin with?

We send surveys to hundreds of local lawyers, asking them whom they would trust if they needed legal counsel themselves. We then tally the results—throwing out self-votes and other attempts to stuff the ballot box—and run the names by trusted professionals who can evaluate the roster.

Some lawyers, after being notified that they made the list, choose to buy advertising in the issue. But many do not. Purchasing an ad has no bearing on whether someone makes it on—no one can pay to be listed.



Jonathan M. Dana

Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

For over 30 years, Jonathan has successfully represented clients in complex, high net-worth, family law cases in the DC metropolitan area. Jonathan is highly regarded for his ability to listen, empathize with client's concerns, and achieve resolution without intensifying family conflict. His personalized approach enables clients to confidently move forward and plan for the future while protecting their children, safeguarding assets, and preserving integrity. A skilled problem-solver, he settles the majority of his cases through negotiation, mediation, or the Collaborative divorce process. When necessary, Jonathan vigorously advocates for his clients in the courtroom. His exemplary career began as a judicial clerk in DC Superior Court and includes serving as lead counsel on a precedent-setting case clarifying the definition of joint custody in the District of Columbia. Jonathan's most rewarding career achievement is the three decades spent at Feldesman Tucker, developing its esteemed Family Law practice and mentoring the next generation of family lawyers.

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